

The
Alcester Grammar



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School Record.

1929-30.

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Grammar School Record.

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EDITOR—MR. DRULLER.

Headmaster's Letter.

DEAR READERS,

Half-term and Sports' Day are now long past; the Cup, Trophy and Shields have again been won, and fresh names appear upon them; the girls' tournament is over; this week will see the Annual Tennis Match between the VIth. and Vth; the examinations are again upon us, and the Summer Term is drawing rapidly to a close, bringing with it the end of another School year.

The success or otherwise of the efforts of those still at School remains yet to be proved. It is not safe to prophesy, but granted a reasonable amount of good fortune in the examination papers, one has hopes of some gratifying results when the lists appear.

Already news of the success of some of our Old Scholars in examinations, details of which are to be found elsewhere in the magazine, have come to hand, and it is a pleasure to congratulate Meryl Thomas, H. T. Lester, E. L. L. Earp, and A. J. Partridge, on the good results that have crowned their labours. My congratulations are also due to Sheila Hodgkinson and Douglas Summers, who have been distinguishing themselves on the Tennis Court and Cricket Field respectively.

In these days, when one hears so much of unemployment and the difficulty of boys and girls in obtaining posts, it is natural that one should be anxious in regard to the future of those who are leaving or are nearing the top of the School. I cannot emphasise too much the importance in the first place of qualifying yourselves as fully as you can by making the most of the advantages you have at School; and in the second place, of trying to make up your minds as to the career you would like to follow before the time to leave School actually arrives.

I would remind others lower in the School that success does not come by taking things too easily, by accepting the many pleasures of School life as they come, and avoiding the difficult and disagreeable. I suppose there will always be some of this sort in every school. They may find their path in life considerably thorny later on. I am glad to say there are many who have realised the value of the opportunity that is theirs and are taking full advantage of it. It is well also to remember that the value of the work the School is doing is shown not only by examinations passed at School, but also by the characters borne by our old scholars as they go out into the world.

One of the pleasures of a school like this is that many old scholars live in the immediate neighbourhood and consequently there are frequent opportunities of meeting them and hearing how they fare. Is it too extravagant a notion now that the ends of the earth are within a few days' journey, and crossing the Atlantic is a matter of hours, to suggest that in a few years time we may have Old Scholars, whose homes are far away, paying us flying visits, or on the occasion of O.S. gatherings, sending us their greetings by wireless from Vancouver, Australia, or New Zealand? Who can say?

The present time, though amazing in the wonderful nature of its inventions, is one full of difficulty, and into whatever sphere of life we look we seem to be faced with puzzling problems. Their solution will depend very largely upon the younger generation, and will require all the brains that they can muster; but a lesson which I hope we learn by living here at School in a community, will be of prime importance in the solving of many of them, and that is the lesson of unselfish consideration for others, and the ability to take another's point of view.

Greetings to all, from your

HEADMASTER.

The School Register.

Valete.

Aldred, B. (IVb), 1928-30.

Sparrow, D. (IIIa), 1920-30.

Salvete.

Blackford, N. M. (IIb).

Simmons, E. M. (I).

Glover, M. (I).

Smith, A. J. (I).

Old Scholars' Guild News.

President—MR. HALL.

Secretary—S. BOWEN. Treasurer—R. SMITH.

A successful dance was held in the Town Hall, on Saturday, April 26th. There were about sixty present. The music was supplied by the Venetian Blues Band.

The annual Summer Reunion will be held at the School on Saturday, July 26th, commencing at 3.30 p.m. A programme of sports similar to those held last year is being arranged. There will be dancing in the evening. A very enjoyable afternoon and evening is anticipated. All Old Scholars, even if they have not received an invitation or are not members, are cordially invited to be present. You Brownies, Jackals, Tomtits, come and compete for your old side! There are special items on the programme for Old Girls.

Members are reminded that subscriptions for the year 1930-31 fall due at the Summer Reunion, and they are asked to hand them to the Treasurer.

The annual Cricket Match against the School is to take place at Ragley on Monday, July 28th, starting at 6.30 p.m. L. Sisam has been appointed Guild captain.

In rather unsettled weather the annual Tennis Match against the School was played on Tuesday, June 24th. After some well-contested sets, the School came out victors, obtaining fifty-one games to the Old Scholars forty-five. The pairs representing the Guild were M. M. Hemming and J. Masters, M. Baylis and C. Bunting, E. Holder and E. Bunting, M. Bullock and A. Brewer.

D. W. Summers (scholar 1923-29) played cricket for Worcestershire in the match against Warwickshire on June 14th, 16th and 17th. Also, playing for Norton Barracks against Cheltenham Outcasts, he scored a century not out, and took two wickets for one run.

S. Hodgkinson (scholar 1922-27) is now Junior and Senior Champion Lady Tennis player of Worcestershire. She has also won the Ladies' Singles Open Championship and the Handicap Doubles.

S. B.

Birth.

On June 16th, to Mr. and Mrs. W. Heard—a daughter.

Marriages.

On February 5th, at Studley, George Cyril Mole to Margaret Annie Elvins (scholar 1916-21).

On April 12th, at Alcester, P. Leonard Lee to Eunice A. Baseley (scholar 1915-21).

On April 30th, at Inkberrow, C. Gordon Brooks to Evelyn Morris (scholar 1921-23).

On June 17th, at Throckmorton, Walter Percy Heard (scholar 1913-15) to Beatrice Rimell (scholar 1915-20).

On Spending Money.

Spending is one of the best recreations which it is possible to enjoy, that is, if you have lots of money to spend. Now I cannot tell you much about that, because personally I have never had that feeling of prosperity. But what I can tell you about is the critical situation of having lots to buy, and little of that with which to buy it. Oh! it is a fine occupation, and one that calls for extremely careful consideration, for when once your money has fallen into the till—oh! that mechanical Scrooge!—"nor all thy pity nor wit shall lure it back!"

It would do me much more good to write about saving money, for that is always my trouble. It is so easy to forget how many sixpences there are in two-and-six, and on putting one's hand into one's pocket for the sixth time—oh, that lucky number six!—one finds it empty. The money which has been burning a hole for so long has at last finished slipping through!

I like to watch people spending money. There is a rustle of silks and furs, and someone sails into the shop ready to spend a small fortune. The assistant immediately forsakes the unlucky individual who is considering the pros and cons of spending a shilling, and not looking very jubilant about it,

either, and he rushes to the service of the opulent one. Ah, well! One cannot blame him! But I like rather to watch the antics of a little street urchin spending a halfpenny, as, with a serious face, he considers the quantity of this and the quality of that, finally asking for "a ha'porth o' those sweets over there, please," as proudly as if he were spending a sovereign. How carefully he watches the scales, with a suspicious look at the shopkeeper, and just as carefully inspects the wrapping up of his purchase! If by any chance he has a penny to spend, no monarch himself could hold his head so high.

The trouble always is that you have such a small sum, and such an enormous amount to buy. The buying of presents is surely one of the most trying tasks which you could possibly find. Why, oh why, you ask despairingly, gazing at the coins in your hand in disgust, was buying presents ever invented? You feel less like spending your money than ever you have done before. You advance to the window of a store and gaze hopefully for a time; but hope soon turns to despair. You ponder and ponder, first gazing at the price labels and then at your money, the meagreness of which you have never fully realised until now. Oh, for a fairy godmother or a magic ring! After about a quarter of an hour you suddenly become aware that you are being watched, and you look up, only to find yourself meeting the eyes of the shopkeeper, whose accusing gaze forces you to move on, forsaking your meditations.

At length, in despair, you take the bull by the horns and advance into a shop. The suave, silky voice of the obliging assistant reaches you, "What can I do for you, madam?" How his tones grate upon your ears, as you see him only as one who induces you to give away your money! How do the lines run?

"He does not love me for my birth,
Nor for my lands so broad and fair;
He loves me for my money's worth."

(Sounds funny! It's such a long time since I read that verse.) Quite true, nevertheless, you think as the silky voice breaks in upon your thoughts. "What were you wanting, madam?" "Er—er—er"—at length you manage to get yourself encumbered with something that you had never dreamed of buying, and you hand over your precious, precious money with many misgivings. How eagerly the fellow takes the coins! With a hollow clang they fall into the till—that forbidden paradise!

"With such a horrid clang,"
or else they seem to ring their own death knell:

"Full fathom five your money lies!"
And you are forced to depart, sighing farewell for ever to
your beloved coins.

What is worse, it is almost certain that you have made another of your terrible blunders. If you have bought a present for Aunt Matilda you are almost certain to have got a pair of slippers, forgetting, in the excitement of parting with your money, that if there is one thing which she abhors it is slippers. In any case, they would be of no use to her, for you remember she prides herself on having tiny feet, and you seem to have bought slippers big enough for an elephant! You try to recall, sadly, whether you told the shop assistant the right size, or whether he thought they were for you. And prison doors have closed fast upon your money, and it is irretrievable! But there is one consolation, at least. When a friend shows you "the beautiful slippers which Matilda gave me for my birthday," you may at least console yourself that you have done Aunt Matilda a good turn, because you have saved her the nerve-racking ordeal of buying birthday presents!

M. B.

Notes and News.

The annual Speech Day gathering took place in the Picture House on Thursday, April 3rd. The certificates were distributed to successful examination candidates by Prof. Linetta de C. Richardson.

At the closing assembly last term, football colours were presented to Harper, Hodgkinson i, Chattaway and Sheppard.

N. Holder, M. Skinner, J. Smith, W. Wright, V. Wright and L. Earp received hockey colours.

The football (presented yearly by the Bunting brothers) was handed to Sherwood i.

The hockey stick was awarded to N. Holder.

On Friday, April 4th, an entertainment, organised by Miss Jones, in aid of Dr. Barnardo's Homes, was given in the Hall, contributions to the programme being made by members of every form. A collection realised a clear £5.

Half term was Whit Monday and Tuesday, June 9th and 10th.

The Games Subscription this term amounted to £7 7s. 9d.

The examinations of the Royal Drawing Society, taken biennially, were held on July 2nd, 3rd and 4th.

The Oxford Examinations commenced on July 14th.

The Cross Country races were run on Friday, March 28th, over the usual courses. The Senior event was won by Sheppard, the Junior event by Warner.

The Mile races were contested this year on Alcester Heath, instead of on the Birmingham Road. The over 16 race was won by Walters i, and the under 16 winner was Styler.

On Wednesday, May 14th a party from Forms VI and V travelled by motor coach to Stratford to see "The Tempest."

The Sixth Form on the following Wednesday also saw "Richard II." at Stratford.

Sports' Day fell on Thursday, June 5th.

The annual Scout Outing took place on Friday, June 6th, Windsor being visited. An impression of this outing appears on another page.

At the beginning of the Easter holiday, a party of girls from Forms VI and V, with Miss Deans and Miss Evans, paid a visit to France.

Hearty congratulations to H. T. Lester (scholar 1916-25) on obtaining the M.Sc. degree of Birmingham University.

Also to A. J. Partridge (scholar 1919-27) who has gained a First Class in the B.A. (Hons.) examination at Sheffield University.

And to E. L. L. Earp (scholar 1915-27) who has obtained his B.Sc. (Civil Engineering) degree with Second Class Honours at Birmingham University.

Also to A. M. Thomas (scholar 1915-25) who has passed her final Law Society Examination.

Thanks to Miss Weatherup for her gift to the School of a collection of the Medici prints of famous pictures, which are to find a home in the Art Room.

The Visit to France.

It was not a very nice day, but our exuberant spirits made up for the lack of sunshine. Mothers, fathers, friends, school mistresses and masters, and a dog all assembled on Alcester platform to wave good-bye when the three o'clock train rumbled out. About five minutes before the train was due one girl, in the excitement of the day, had forgotten her mackintosh. As French weather was judged by that we experience in England, it was decided that the garment was a necessary evil. So she had to dash off in a borrowed motor car, arriving back just in time to catch the train. The journey to Birmingham seemed long and tedious, but it is surprising what a cup of tea and a bun can do even in a noisy station buffet. Revived, we settled comfortably into two compartments, enjoying the fresh scenery and buildings the route to London offered. After a motor coach drive across London, and a hot drink on the station, we set off for Newhaven. It was practically midnight when we boarded the cross-channel steamer. The sea was very calm, and only one disgraced the party. She had mal-de-mer.

In the early hours of the morning we put our feet for the first time on French soil, and without any difficulty we passed through the Customs. From Dieppe to Paris we saw

France waking up. One boy was holding his head under a pump. It was then, I think, that we decided a wash would not do us any harm. At last the train pulled up; we were in Paris. For a while we waited outside the station watching the steady flow of water run down the gutters, the shopkeeper brushing the dirt from pavement, and the incessant stream of cars to and from the station. We had an unavoidable delay in Paris, but we enjoyed our first French breakfast of coffee and rolls, and after an appetising lunch left Paris in a third class compartment with wooden seats. But they were hygienic. It was just four o'clock when we arrived at Tours.

Too tired for strenuous walking, all went to bed quite early, and no one complained at breakfast next morning of a sleepless night. Wednesday was a lovely sunshiny day. During the morning we visited Tours Cathedral, famous for its unique thirteenth century windows, and St. Martin's, the model of a fourth century church. After lunch we went in a small but comfortable char-a-banc to visit our first château, Chenonceaux. Built over a river, it was the favourite residence of Catherine de Medici. It was here we heard the cuckoo for the first time. Two girls delayed the departure by gathering cowslips, regardless of time. We went next to Amboise, which commanded a very fine view, which must have been enjoyed by the conspirators who were hanged from the balcony railings high above the town.

Thursday was a busy day. Armed with our lunches, we left the pension at 9.30. We stopped first at Chaumont, beautifully situated and adorned with turrets. From there we went on to Blois, one of the finest of the châteaux, although it was unfurnished. It was here the duc de Guise was so villainously murdered. We ate lunch outside a café, and it was quite amusing to see a usually very sedate member of the party with an eight-inch roll in one hand and a hard-boiled egg in the other. In the afternoon we were taken through Chambord, next in magnificence to Versailles itself. Here Molière's "*Bourgeois Gentilhomme*" was presented for the first time before Louis XIV.

We had decided to spend Friday quietly. Fortunately, it was very hot, and we were able to sit in the gardens or watch men and boys fish in the Loire. During the afternoon we visited Loches, which is now used as a prison. The Donjon there we enjoyed thoroughly, revelling in the

torture chambers and in those dungeons that were without windows. Saturday was our most busy day at Tours. Immediately after breakfast we went to Villandry, famous for its fine collection of Spanish pictures and its Lenôtre gardens. We passed on to Azay-le-Rideau, where the most traditional marks of feudal architecture were found to be transformed into ornaments after the Renaissance style. Chinon was our first visiting place after lunch. Although in ruins, it is full of interest, for it was here that Jeanne d'Arc recognised the Dauphin in the midst of his courtiers. We passed on from Ussé, where we were only permitted to see the grounds and the chapel, to Langeais, a strongly-fortified château. After visiting Cinq-Mars, which was practically all in ruins except for two large towers, we caught a glimpse of Luynes from the roadside. That evening we almost fell asleep over our dinner.

Sunday was a very cold day, and we had to go for a brisk walk before lunch after the service in the old cathedral. In the afternoon we were invited to a tea party in a real patisserie. A batch of English schoolboys came in and ordered ices—we shivered. Then we broke up into small groups, and went for a small walk before dinner. Monday came, and with it our last morning in Tours. This precious time we spent in visiting the shops—trust the girls—and buying a few presents. Two mistresses and nine girls with gloomy faces waved good-bye to Tours through the railway carriage window of the 1.45 train to Paris.

The French capital did not give up a very pleasant greeting. When we arrived there it was raining heavily. After dinner those who were not tired went into the Latin Quarter, drank coffee outside a café, and watched the students go by. And strange figures some of them did make. We spent practically the whole day out on Tuesday. Catching an early train, we were able to make a rapid tour of Versailles before lunch. We enjoyed our lunch in a plain little room, but our minds were dazzled by the luxury and the pomp of the gilded palace. During the afternoon, in between the frequent showers, we went over the two Trianons and the delightful miniature Swiss village, where Marie Antoinette and her court ladies were wont to "play milkmaids." Before catching our train, we had just time to visit the Salle du Jeu de Paume.

Wednesday we spent a very enjoyable morning in the Louvre, seeing in reality those masterpieces in sculpture we had so often admired in photographs, getting some of

the beauty from the paintings by the great masters. When we went to Les Invalides during the afternoon we could quite realise there were two kings in France seeing the splendour of Napoleon's Courts. Again we had another tea party. Our only trouble was the cakes were so rich we could not eat many. A pleasant hour was spent afterwards buying articles pleasing to the eye and suitable to the purse.

Thursday was another well-filled day. Although Mass was being celebrated at Notre Dame the first time we visited it, we were able to go later and admire the mauve-tinted rose windows at either side of the cathedral. The beauty of the old building was emphasised by the sordidness of the Conciergerie, the last residence of Marie Antoinette and other unfortunate aristos. We were cheered once again by the finest stained-glass windows of Sainte Chapelle. During the afternoon we went to the Musée Carnavallet, the home of Mme. de Sévigné, where many relics of the Revolution are kept.

Friday was the last day of our French visit. We took a tram to the Opera House, then went to St. Geneviève's Shrine, from there to the Partheon, the French Westminster Abbey. As we crossed the road from the Arc de Triomphe, the agent de police stopped all the traffic and walked across the road with us. For the moment our noses were at a decided angle, but we were informed that the French looked after children. In the afternoon drizzle we visited the Musée du Luxemburg, the home of modern art and sculpture.

The Channel was reported to be rough. Orders were given that no chocolate was to be eaten before our arrival in England. It was a solemn crowd that got into the train. However, we were cheered by the lusty singing of a party of school boys who were also homeward bound. We slept, but were soon aroused by the lights in the harbour. With stout hearts practically all decided to remain on top deck, but they say—here my mind is somewhat blank except for personal experiences—that one by one they all rolled down the steps leaving only two stalwarts up above.

I think everybody was glad when we planted our feet on English soil once more, delighted when we had not to open our suit cases in the Customs, dismayed when we saw the snow falling, thankful when we saw familiar faces on Alcester Station.

It had been the most pleasurable holiday imaginable. But had it not been for the careful organisation of every part of our stay by Miss Deans and Miss Evans, it could not have been half so enjoyable.

K. M. J.

Sports Day Indoors.

In spite of the predictions of gloomy weather prophets (who, however, had their turn last year), the hopeful expectancy of the optimists bore fruit, the sun commenced to shine early in the morning and continued to do so brilliantly for the remainder of the day. Heroic were they who did any school work on that morning.

The morning at School was full of excitement, the dining room tables full of cookery, at least so labels indicated. Frantic efforts were made to retrieve lost tickets, and wild guesses as to whether Jackal so and so, Brownie Girl, or Tomtit Boy, was a senior or junior. A busy time was spent within the hall arranging the stalls, but we were unceremoniously turned out when the judges arrived. What appealing glances were cast at them! Would they be merciful? Surely on such a glorious morning there was every hope. After what seemed an interminable time the results were out, and we were besieged by juniors, whose luck evidently exceeded their cooking ability (according to their own versions).

The afternoon arrived, and having been presented with red bags for change we took our places in the hall. My companion and I found ourselves in charge of the stall containing the bread rolls and numerous cherry cakes. After a careful search, my methodical companion discovered that there were exactly twenty cakes on our stall for sale. Twenty cakes, not to mention many rolls. The fear of not selling any caused my companion and myself to suggest buying half each, but the final problem of disposal dissuaded us. Business at first was slow, and we had time to visit other stalls, and question juniors as to the progress of the boys' sports. We caught occasional glimpses from the windows of the boys racing, and in view of the heat the girls' lot was more enviable. Later a steady stream of visitors kept us employed. We attempted to attract the eyes of would-be buyers from cakes and rolls marked "not for sale" to those weightier specimens waiting to be sold, by informing them that perhaps the cakes were so indicated because their owners regarded them as being unfit for the

majority to digest. It was a more difficult task to persuade another person that the cherries in the cake, which she was doubtfully regarding, had gone to the bottom only because the exhibitor wanted to be original; or that its neighbour with a depressed centre had collapsed because of the heat, or to assure some one else that the rolls would not necessitate a visit to the dentist. In spite of such incidents as losing the change, pencil, and putting the wrong cake in the wrong bag, the afternoon was uneventful, and we succeeded in selling nearly all our cakes.

When the country dancing was over we made a wild dive for the cloakroom, where our speedy transformation from summer dresses to gym tunics would not have discredited quick-change artistes. At last, having hastily knotted ties, and fastened hair slides, we slipped into our respective places on the Court. Then excitement rose, some excitable ones energetically pounded the backs of those in front to their no small discomfort. Mr. Wells commenced to read out the results. The Jackals, by winning the Arts and Crafts Shield for the first time, established a precedent, for which they are to be congratulated. Mrs. Spencer kindly presented the cup, shields and medals to the winners. The following awards were made:—

SILVER MEDALS.—Seniors: M. Sheppard (163), R. Jackson (146), E. Greenhill (122), V. Wood (106), B. Greenhill (89). Juniors: J. Jackson (128), W. Walters (90).

BRONZE MEDALS.—Seniors: Gwynne-Jones (62), N. Holder (60), K. Morom (60), Bailey (50), C. Carratt (49), K. Jagger (47), P. Carratt (42). Juniors: M. Sisam (60), Mason (52), B. Oliver (45), K. Barley (44).

“JOAN OF ARC”: M. Sheppard.

The Arts and Crafts Shield was won by the Jackals with 873 points, the Brownies being second with 717 points, and the Tomtits third with 660.

C. C.

Sports' Day, 1930.

Sports' Day this year was marked by a record visitation of what had been up till last year our usual glorious weather; and although the preparation of the field had been hindered through various causes, all was ready by the arrival of the great afternoon. Our thanks are again due to Mr. Hall for

his customary expert organisation of the heats and races; and to the Judges and Stewards for their invaluable assistance in awarding and recording points.

A feature of the events this Sports' Day was the number of close finishes, which afforded pleasant thrills to the spectators, albeit warm one to the runners. Several of the races also, particularly in the junior section, were quite fast, a fact which belies the statement sometimes overheard that all our athletes have left us.

The Sports programme, which was ended well before time, with the three-team relay race, was followed by a programme of dancing by the girls and some small boys, which was, as usual, much appreciated by the visitors. This took place on the front tennis court, whence, after a short interval, all and sundry repaired to the Girls' playground for the presentation of the cup, shields and medals, kindly undertaken by Mrs. W. A. Spencer. Three cheers for Mrs. Spencer and three for Mr. Hall, Miss Deans and the staff, brought the proceedings to a close. The visitors dispersed, and soon nothing remained but the marking on the field, the stack of now familiar brown chairs, and a few posts lying here and there, to show that the eighteenth sports' day in the history of the School had passed by.

The results of the sports were as follows:—

OVER 14.

100 Yards.—1, Partridge; 2, Sherwood i.; 3, Bailey; 4, Horton.

220 Yards.—1, Sherwood i.; 2, Chattaway; 3, Baylis i.; 4, Partridge.

Quarter-Mile.—1, Tombs; 2, Baylis i.; 3, Sherwood i.; 4, Chattaway.

Half-Mile.—1, Sheppard; 2, Tombs; 3, Walters i.; 4, Partridge.

Hurdles.—1, Sherwood i.; 2, Plevin; 3, Lloyd; 4, Sherwood ii.

Consolation Race.—1, Sherwood ii.; 2, Lloyd; 3, Horton; 4, Sherwood iii.

Obstacle Race.—1, Plevin; 2, Walters i.; 3, Lloyd; 4, Hodgkinson i.

Slow Bicycle Race.—1, Hodgkinson i.; 2, Walters i.; 3, Sheppard; 4, Dales.

High Jump.—1, Harper; 2, Horton; 3, Hodgkinson i.; 4, Sherwood i.

Long Jump.—1, Harper; 2, Plevin; 3, White; 4, Sherwood i.

Cross-Country Race.—1, Sheppard; 2, Horton; 3, Sherwood i.; 4, Sherwood iii.

Throwing the Cricket Ball.—1, Harper; 2, Sherwood i.; 3, Horton; 4, Hodgkinson i.

Mile (over 16).—1, Walters i.; 2, Sheppard; 3, Sherwood i.; 4, Harper.

Mile (under 16).—1, Styler; 2, Bailey; 3, Warner; 4, Yates.

12-14.

- 100 Yards.—1, Mason; 2, Styler; 3, Richards; 4, Ross.
220 Yards.—1, Mason; 2, Styler; 3, Ross; 4, Yates.
Half-Mile.—1, Warner; 2, Styler; 3, Mason; 4, Yates.
Hurdle Race.—1, Mason; 2, Chambers; 3, Baylis ii.; 4, Ross.
Consolation Race.—1, Antrobus; 2, Morton; 3, Ledbury; 4, Steele.
Obstacle Race.—1, Sore; 2, Richards; 3, Gostling; 4, Sumner.
Slow Bicycle Race.—1, Goulbourne i.; 2, Sumner; 3, Ledbury; 4, Baylis ii.
High Jump.—1, Warner; 2, Richards; 3, Sumner.
Long Jump.—1, Styler; 2, Richards; 3, Sumner; 4, Yates.
Throwing the Cricket Ball.—1, Ison; 2, Warner; 3, Mason; 4, Sore.
Cross-Country Race.—1, Warner; 2, Styler; 3, Yates; 4, Ison.

UNDER 12.

- Egg and-Spoon Race.—1, Luker; 2, Hiller; 3, Hodgkinson iii.; 4, Fowler.
100 Yards.—1, Baylis ii.; 2, Bayne ii.; 3, Hiller; 4, Luker.
Obstacle Race.—1, Hodgkinson iii.; 2, Holman; 3, Bayne ii.; 4, Goulbourne ii.
Sack Race.—1, Davis; 2, Hiller; 3, Keniston; 4, Fisher.

OTHER EVENTS.

- Tug-of-War.—1, Tomtits; 2, Brownies.
Relay Race.—1, Tomtits; 2, Brownies; 3, Jackals.
Potato Relay (Girls).—1 Jackals; 2, Tomtits; 3, Brownies.
Donkey Relay.—1, Brownies; 2, Jackals; 3, Tomtits.
The Sports' Shield was won by the Tomtits, with 401 points. The Jackals scored 341 points, and the Brownies 323 points.
The following boys were awarded medals:—
SILVER.—Partridge, Sherwood i., Harper, Sheppard, Walters i., Mason, Tombs, Styler, Warner.
BRONZE.—Baylis i., Plevin, Yates, Horton, Ison, Bailey, Richards, Baylis iii.

GOLD MEDAL AND CUP.—Sherwood i. (68 points).

W. A. P.

Chat Magazine Article.

It is well known that there are certain privileges appertaining to that form wherein reside seven hapless, overworked, harried and hustled elderly members of A.G.S., youths with perfect creases and beauteous socks, maidens with comely visages, and 'tis rumoured even with their hair "up." Perhaps one of the most delightful of all these privileges lies in the fact that each one of these hapless (etc.) members, who are expected to be examples of good conduct and all other virtues to the rest of the School, is

expected, nay supposed, to contribute to each term's RECORD. Once upon a time in years of long ago the names of the hapless (etc.) members of that form used to appear regularly on the front page of each term's RECORD in capital letters under the heading of "The Committee." Eager scholars would read the list of names and then settle down for half-an-hour's perusal of good literature. Next morning, at school, the inevitable comments would be heard. "There's Mary Jones' name on the committee and she hasn't written an article for the Magazine." Such was the guile of the days of old, such the method of editors. It is believed that things got to such a pitch that one committee decided to dissolve itself. An alternative reason presents itself in the fact that it was rumoured that in a lesson one of the hapless, et cetera ad infinitum [example of the great learning of these individuals] made so terrible, so preposterous a mistake that our editor, perceiving the glum face and distorted mind of the committee member, attributed the said glum face and worried mind to the fact that the said individual was a member of the committee, a responsibility which was preying on his mind, and through the kindness of his heart he abolished the committee himself. However, the whole matter has been kept very dark, and so one can only surmise.

Now-a-days, as no doubt has happened through the ages A.F. (which, being interpreted, means after the foundation of A.G.S.) a notice appears, affixed to the notice board in the corridor. The wording varies little, and always consists of an order to the chosen seven, and a gentle hint to the rest of the School. It reads, for instance, as follows:—

"All contributions for this term's RECORD must be handed to me before Friday, June 27th."

These words are marked, learnt, and inwardly digested by these intellectual leaders of the School. But 'tis to be feared they are of scarce any avail for many weeks; in fact, the weeks roll by and go on rolling by until this twentieth-fifth day of the month of June in the year 1930. The time is six-thirty. One of these hapless members, the nicest, most amiable, most industrious, illustrious, and charming of the form, sits down to write a Magazine article. I am armed with pen, ink, paper, and all the other paraphernalia of the author, and I commence to think—a statement not to be doubted by malicious persons. After a few minutes the light of inspiration dawns, and titles for the article rush through my mind. For instance, "Reminiscences of the

football field, 1929-30," or "Happy is the school that expecteth nothing," by a spectator. However, since this subject was so admirably dealt with on Speech day this year, and also since the subject might not meet with the approval of eleven stalwart, doughty men of valour, it had best be left alone. So with the words of the poet on my lips,

" Oft expectation fails, and most oft
Where most it promises,"

I search for yet another topic.

" An appeal for the abolishment of the taking of detention by prefects." This stirring appeal would doubtless meet with much approval from the higher intellectual circles, but it would prove dull to those unconcerned. Indeed it might incite mischievous youngsters to frequent the detention even more than they do, in the hope of annoying the prefects. So this time I murmur, " Let well alone," and search again.

Here we are:—" The conduct of the scholars " or " The merits and demerits of the lock-out system." On second thoughts, however, this will not do, for several reasons, the most important of which lies in the fact that even the intelligentsia value their skins. Of secondary importance is the fact that the subject might prove anathema to twenty-nine handsome lads and pretty lasses, who inhabit the cold and frigid upper air.

And so many titles for the article rush through my brain, and each in its turn has to be put aside. At last (*mirabile dictu*) a brain wave bursts upon me. I will write about the sufferings of these hapless people who are supposed to write these articles. (Two hours now elapse during which the above " unsubstantial pageant " emanates from my pen).

And now, Mr. Editor, 'tis done. As I believe the poet (or is it a hymn?) says:

" The battle is fought and won."

Now Mr. Editor, I believe there will result many benefits. Firstly, hordes of sympathetic youngsters, in the middle school, with little to do, filled with compassion for us poor people, will all contribute articles for next term's RECORD (perhaps). Some may then be used and the remainder would constitute a reserve stock to be used whenever required. When all these are used up this brilliant article can be republished, and so the article problem will be solved.

The second result is a personal one. In fifty years time, sixth formers will (again, perhaps) read this article and see how easy their lot is compared to ours. Filled with gratitude, they will offer silent thanks to me wherever I may then be. And with this cheerful note I will close.

Q. E. D.

The Scout Outing.

The Scout Outing this year fell on Friday, June 6th, and we were favoured with a day which, though less hot than Sports' Day, was none the less welcome on that account. A start was made from Alcester at about 8.15 a.m., after having duly waited for the arrival of an individual significantly referred to as "the second S— —s." After passing through Stratford interest was aroused by the course of the old horse-tramway from Stratford to Shipston, and our journey was enlivened by recounting the adventures of the previous day and by the exploits of a certain cup-lifting P—L, who had possessed himself of a peashooter. As we went through Woodstock we saw the magnificent gates and drive to Blenheim Palace, the residence of the Dukes of Marlborough. Between Woodstock and Oxford the first halt was called by our thoughtful driver at a pleasant roadside coppice, after which we proceeded through Oxford, along the famous "High," getting a glimpse of Tom Tower, University and Queen's Colleges, and St. Mary's Church, and over Magdalen bridge. Going down the Iffley Road we crossed the Thames at Henley, and leaving Maidenhead on our left came to a halt for lunch about four miles north of Windsor.

When these necessary preliminaries had been dispensed with we entered Windsor and, negotiating the windward and somewhat odoriferous side of the gasworks, and passing under the railway bridge came in view of the Castle. Here we left our 'bus, and, informed for safety as to where tea would be prepared, made our way towards the Castle—on the way to which some of our number (doubtless with a view to making up for the prospect of having tea in a Congregational Hall) thought fit to take refreshment at a wayside tavern.

After negotiating the arduous ascent to the Castle entrance, we found ourselves confronted with six feet of uniform, a pill box and a foot of cold steel, which we rightly took for a sentry. We therefore procured a guide, who contrived to tell us much of the Castle's history, laying considerable stress on what he called the romantic spots;

to wit, for instance, the room occupied by Anne Boleyn as a lady in waiting to Katharine of Aragon; and also to refute the American proposition that Shakespeare and Bacon were the same man. After enjoying the fine view of Eton and Windsor from the ramparts of the Castle we went down to view the outsides of the Keep and State apartments, and then proceeded to Eton College. On arriving there and finding that strangers and hawkers were not admitted for another three-quarters of an hour, some of our number evinced a strong desire to test the cooling properties of the great, grey-green, greasy Father Thames, which flows under the street some yards below. Others who, doubtless, thought bathing akin to exertion, preferred to ride in ease on the river's surface, and accordingly took a motor boat. The remainder of the party, deeming such pastimes unworthy of the auspicious nature of the occasion, possessed themselves in patience for a time, and then looked round Eton College.

The whole party met again at 4 p.m. with commendable, but by no means inexplicable promptness to compare notes and do justice to a magnificent tea which was waiting in the aforesaid Congregational Hall. This was followed by a raid on the peashooter shop, grocers' stores, and the inevitable pop shop, which made some commodities very scarce in Windsor for a time; but the market was rapidly glutted with peashooters, which the S.M. thought fit to declare taboo.

A start was made on the return journey at about 5.30, and after passing several nursery grounds, including "Waterer's floral mile," which contained a fine display of lupins, the first stop was made about half way to Reading to enable Mr. Druller to take the usual groups, on which the driver, who has taken us on our last four outings, was included. Proceeding via Reading, where we were welcomed by a display of flags and banners, we passed through Henley and Oxford, halting for refreshment at a "free house," where they allowed us to use the pump (water) free, some miles south of Banbury. Night was already falling when we reached Warwick, and arriving at Alcester at 10.30 we found a number of anxious parents who had hopefully arrived for nine o'clock. Three cheers for Mr. Walker, and three for the driver, brought a very enjoyable day to a close, and ended what most of us agreed was one of our best outings.

W. A. P.

F. W. H.

Olla Podrida.

Fashions, writes M. H., have never been stationery.

The people of the village, according to T. L., have most imaginary minds.

We took (says I. D.) a combustible tube and put a ship in it.

As man became gradually polished, his clothes (M. H. writes) followed in his footsteps.

Can I. D. tell us what is a "bouncing burner"?

Men in the Army, writes M. S., have clothes of a similar colour to the earth, such as Boy Scouts.

"To make red phosphorus into white," says W. W., "keep it in an air-tight flask and expose it to the air; the Jew disappears."

The Library.

The following books, by Dumas, have been added to the Library this term:—"The Forty-Five Guardsmen," "Marguerite de Valois," "Chicot the Jester," "The Three Musketeers" (Vols. I. and II.), "Twenty Years After," "Vicomte de Bragelonne," "Louise de la Vallière," "The Man in the Iron Mask," "The Black Tulip," "The Queen's Necklace," "Le Chevalier de Maison Rouge," "The Count of Monte Cristo" (Vols. I. and II.).

Cricket.

CAPTAIN—Sherwood i. SECRETARY—Partridge.

So far, our cricket eleven have had a much more gratifying career than might have been augured for them from an analysis of the football results; and, while suffering only two really overwhelming defeats, they have had the satisfaction of two clear wins and two closely-contested games, which was more than we were able to say for the football eleven. Ill-luck has again visited the School in the form of broken bones, and necessitated the retirement of Ison for a

considerable time. Against Coughton, also, it was found impossible to put such a strong team into the field for the second match as for the first; this accounts for the lost game against them at Ragley.

The bowlers for the School have been mainly Harper and Hodgkinson, with Plevin as first change. So far, Harper has taken 25 wickets for 157 runs, and Hodgkinson 15 wickets for 102.

The following boys have represented the School this season:—Sherwood i., Harper, Hodgkinson i., Plevin, Ison, Baylis i., Sheppard, Horton, Chattaway, Partridge, Savage i., Tombs, Sherwood ii., Warner.

The results to date are as follows:—

	For.	Agst.
A.G.S. v. Temple Grafton C.C. (away), lost ...	79	31
v. Evesham P.H.G.S. (home), lost ...	49	123
	(for 4 decd.)	
v. Campden G.S. (away), lost ...	31	152
	(for 4 decd.)	
v. Stratford K.E.G.S. (home), lost ...	54	62
v. Coughton C.C. (away), won ...	49	30
v. Coughton C.C. (home), lost ...	28	30
v. Stratford G.S. (away), lost ...	18	55
v. Redditch S.S. (away), drawn ...	47	145
	(for 4) (for 9 decd.)	
v. Temple Grafton C.C. (home), won ...	67	54

Three sides matches have also been played, with the following results:—

Tomtits beat Brownies ...	80 (for 4 decd.)	52
Jackals beat Brownies ...	40 (for 1 decd.)	25
Tomtits beat Jackals ...	72	25
	W. A. P.	
	K. E. A. S.	

Tennis.

This season favourable weather has allowed us plenty of practice. The sides matches, played early in the term, resulted in the Brownies winning two and the Jackals one match. The matches for the Gold Medal are being rapidly played off, and the results are watched keenly. M. Lane has been elected tennis captain.

Two outside matches have been played this year, and both have resulted in victories for the School. In the first, played on June 21st, against a Bromsgrove team, the

School was represented by M. Lane, N. Holder, E. Ison, and R. Bunting. On June 24th, a mixed team of Old Scholars was beaten, by a narrow margin, by a School team, including M. Lane and Hodgkinson, N. Holder and Baylis, E. Ison and Sherwood ii., R. Bunting and Sherwood i., after a very enjoyable game.

The Girls' Tournament Day was held on Saturday last, July 5th, in glorious weather, and a very pleasant afternoon was spent.

In the final of the Gold Medal, M. Lane beat R. Bunting 6—3, 6—3.

Sports Shield.

Side.	Captains.	Side.	Captains.
1913 Brownies	A. K. Brown	1923 Jackals	F. Bunting
1914 Jackals	K. Hall		W. M. Sisam
1915 Jackals	K. Hall	1924 Jackals	F. Bunting
1916 Jackals	K. Hall		W. M. Sisam
	E. T. Tipping	1925 Brownies	A. E. Perkins
1917 Jackals	E. Staff		A. M. Thomas
	E. T. Tipping	1926 Tomtits	A. J. Partridge
1918 Tomtits	W. Heard		B. W. Wells
	M. Johnson	1927 Jackals	E. L. L. Earp
1919 Tomtits	W. Heard		L. Smith
	M. Johnson	1928 Jackals	D. W. Summers
1920 Brownies	A. Anker		E. Bomford
	M. Farquhar	1929 Jackals	D. W. Summers
1921 Brownies	R. H. Mander		O. W. Lane
	E. A. Baseley	1930 Tomtits	F. W. Harper
1922 Brownies	E. W. Betteridge		N. Holder
	M. Walker		

Arts and Crafts Shield.

Side.	Captains.	Side.	Captains.
1916 Brownies	M. Stock.		E. H. Mander
	E. Bird	1924 Tomtits	J. Wells
1917 Brownies	M. Stock		A. J. Partridge
	G. E. Farmer	1925 Brownies	A. M. Thomas
1918 Brownies	A. P. Jephcott		A. E. Perkins
	A. Anker	1926 Tomtits	B. W. Wells
1919 Tomtits	M. Johnson		A. J. Partridge
	W. Heard	1927 Tomtits	B. W. Wells
1920 Brownies	M. Farquhar		A. J. Partridge
	A. Anker	1928 Tomtits	B. W. Wells
1921 Brownies	E. A. Baseley		F. H. Sisam
	R. H. Mander	1929 Brownies	K. Williams
1922 Tomtits	V. Bunting		E. G. Sheppard
	C. Bunting	1930 Jackals	A. M. Sheppard
1923 Brownies	A. M. Thomas		E. Chattaway

Sports' Cup Winners.

1913 A. K. Brown	1922 F. Bunting
1914 T. H. Gostling	1923 F. Bunting
1915 J. K. Sisson	1924 F. Bunting
1916 W. Cowper	1925 A. E. Perkins
1917 W. Heard	1926 L. S. Barnett
1918 W. Heard	1927 A. J. Partridge
1919 W. Heard	1928 S. C. Scriven
1920 E. Bunting	1929 F. H. Sisam
1921 J. Jones	1930 K. E. A. Sherwood

Football Season 1929-30.

Goals.					
Matches Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	For.	Against.
21	—	20	1	17	166

The following boys represented the School most frequently during the football season:—Harper (captain), Plevin, Hodgkinson i., Ison, Chattaway, Sherwood I., Sheppard, Sherwood ii., Bailey, Horton, Hodgkinson ii., White.

W. A. P.

Hockey Season 1929-30.

Goals.					
Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	For.	Against.
11	5	4	2	28	34

The School was represented by:—R. Bunting, N. Holder, R. Walker, B. Aldred, R. Jackson, J. Smith, M. Skinner, M. Lane, V. Wright, B. Greenhill, L. Earp, E. Ison, W. Wright.

For the Juniors.

My Wonderland.

I know an invisible bird, called Birdie, and he lives in the elephant tree, up the Arrow Road. And he sleeps under my bed and sometimes he corners off his bed with curtains and asks one or two of each of the English birds to a party. And sometimes he asks the fairies.

Diana is the Fairy Queen.

There is a special little bird, called Chicklet, who sleeps under Diana's washing stand, and sometimes on one of her bed posts. And there is another special visitor, Robin Red-breast—and Squire Owl and Cock Sparrow and Mr. Tom-tit and Mr. Parrot and Mr. Jackdaw.

But one night when they were having a grand party I heard a terrible lot of noise, under my bed; so I leaned out of bed and looked under, and I saw that the Cuckoos had attacked the birds.

The Cuckoos are the birds worst enemies. And of course there was nothing to do except ring up Diana on an invisible telephone and ask her for some fairy armies, which ended up with the cuckoos having to fly out of the window. Happening to lose their wings they had to fly on their spare paper ones.

So it happened that we could do nothing else to reward Diana and the fairies but present them with a shield.

HUNT (Form Ib, aged 7 years).

The Magic Touch.

There was a solemn hush in the Big Hall, the Queen of the Blossoms was just concluding a Speech.

"I shall come round in a week's time to inspect you, and give you your orders for the year."

The gathering broke up in the usual way, and the Blossoms went to their respective clubrooms to make ready for the Queen's visit.

When the day came the Royal Carriage was seen in front of the large buildings.

First of all she stopped at the rooms of the Plum Blossom. They were all lined up against the wall, and standing stiffly in their white dresses and green coats.

"You must pass up along the trunks of the trees until you find an empty seat on a branch, and there you must stay. Be sure you don't take off your coats and place out your dresses until you feel the warm sun and the soft, cool breezes."

Then she passed on to all the other blossoms, giving each the same warning, "For," she said, "the sun and the wind alone hold the Magic Touch for you."

E. M. SHERWOOD.

ALCESTER:
THE CHRONICLE OFFICE,
HIGH STREET.
